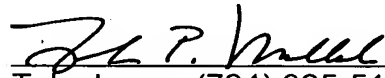


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-mentioned divisional patent application. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK P. MALLAK
SENIOR PATENT AGENT
Registration No. 36,590

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. P. Mallak", is written over a horizontal line.

Telephone: (724) 325-5192

Facsimile: (412) 434-4292

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
January 16, 2004